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in this country. The plan was one by which the student could take the B. Sc. and M. D. degrees in six years, the former including studies that lead directly up to the study of medicine, besides French, German, English, mathematics, logic, rhetoric, and mental philosophy. Every medical man should have a special preliminary education.

The chief defects in the American system of medical education are: 1. Too little preliminary education, from which comes a lack of ability to grasp scientific principles. 2. Too much didactic work by the teachers. 3. Too little practical and clinical work by the students. 4. Too few tests of practical work. 5. Too short a time of actual work and study. Increasing the preliminary requirements and lengthening the time of study will remedy the other defects; and the application of the remedy will kill off the useless and low-class colleges. In Minnesota, Montana, and Washington every candidate for examination and license must have attended three courses of lectures. The same will be required by the California boards after April 1, 1891, by the Colorado board after July 1, 1893, in Illinois and Iowa after the session of 1890-91, and by the boards of examiners of New York after September 1, 1891.

The Illinois report, embracing the institutions and regulations of all countries, shows that, while there is a general movement in this country for four years' study and three courses of lectures, the General Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland has decreed that every medical student beginning his medical studies after January 1, 1892, must be engaged in the study of medicine for five years. The first year may be passed at a teaching institution, recognized by the licensing bodies of the United Kingdom, where physics, chemistry, and biology are taught. Graduates in arts or science of any university recognized by the Medical Council, who shall have spent a year in the study of physics, chemistry, and biology, and have passed an examination in these subjects for the degrees in question, should be held to have completed the first of the five years of medical study. The General Medical Council will require that the fifth year be devoted to clinical work in one or more hospitals or dispensaries. The candidate for any medical degree in the United Kingdom must pass five examinations before he can receive the degree. In this way the final examination is almost wholly given up to clinical examinations on patients in the hospitals. These examinations are foreign to the schools and licensing bodies in the United States, and it will be a long step in advance when they are the rule in this country.

Both in Europe and in the South American republics medical education and the right to practise are on a higher plane than in this country. But we are now going forward at a good pace, and it is not too much to predict that during the present decade each State will have an efficient medical-practice act, and the rule in the colleges will be a high standard of preliminary and matriculation requirements, and *five years' study* and four courses of lectures. The door of quackery is being closed, not by the voluntary action of the colleges, but by wise legislation in the interests of the people.

WILLIAM G. EGGLESTON, M. D.

A NATIONAL CHORUS.

AS THE time rapidly approaches when the civilized nations of the earth are expected to assist our country in its great Columbian World's Fair, evidence begins to accumulate showing that our people are expecting something of an extraordinary character in the art of music, as well as in the fine

arts. It seems to lovers of music, as well as to musicians themselves, that it would be almost a crime unpardonable if they should fail to seize this opportunity to accomplish something for the advancement of their art, and bequeath to posterity lasting results.

Such an occasion comes not once in a lifetime; not even once in a century; and it is safe to say that never in history has a similar event been celebrated which so completely enlisted the patriotic impulses of any nation.

That the formation of a national choral union for this celebration would awaken enthusiasm throughout the length and breadth of our land, that it would in each State create a new impulse for the art, and, by its successful performance in Chicago inaugurate a new era, with magnificent promises of future results, will be freely admitted.

To assist in the attainment of this great purpose the following plan is suggested with reference:

First, to artistic success; sustaining our dignity as a nation;

Second, to permanent results, for the advancement of the art of music in America;

Third, to the financial success of the exposition.

In pursuance of the foregoing, I suggest the formation of a national choral union, composed of some of the best voices in every State, thus bringing together a representative body of our entire people. This chorus should number not more than 10,000 nor less than 5,000 voices, and should participate in the opening ceremonies in a world's festival of song, lasting five days or a week.

The following programme is suggested as adapted to the occasion:

First night—Sacred music. Oratorio. Selections from Händel, Haydn, Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schumann.

Second night—Secular music. Opera. Selections from Verdi, Gounod, Von Weber, Gluck, Moyerbeer, Wagner.

Third night—Part-songs of all nations.

Fourth night and fifth night—Original works by American composers.

Matinée—Patriotic music and singing by school children.

As will be observed, the programme is simple, and will need to be dignified by a large body of singers. The plan does not embrace the engagement of celebrated solo singers, as that would double the expense, without adding anything to the advancement of art, and the intention is to make the ponderous effect of the chorus the main attraction. It would appear undignified, unpatriotic, and beyond the province of a world's fair to enter the arena of amusements, and appeal for patronage in art to that element of curiosity attaching merely to great names.

The question naturally arises, How can this be done? How is a large mass of singers to be organized and drilled, music secured, etc., etc.? Without going into details, I will briefly suggest the following as a feasible plan: Let each State send a number of singers, proportionate to its population; the number to be determined according to the size of the mass-chorus desired. Each State should have its separate choral organization complete—officers, musical director, etc., the Governor of the State being the honorary president. Each State choral union taking part would be expected to pay its own expenses, special cheap railway fares being provided.

Each State should also furnish and pay for its music, for which the Legislature should make an appropriation, which would amount in each case to only a few hundred dollars at most.

Each State organization should be encouraged to give one or two public performances during the year, which would serve the triple purpose of raising a fund to pay the expenses of any good singers who might not be able otherwise to participate; of showing their advancement in singing; and of awakening an interest in the great world's festival of song.

All these State organizations should be subject to certain rules and obligations, and a national director and organizer should rehearse every organization twice or three times in all the music, so as to preserve a unity in style, phrasing, etc.

Without further details, the great importance of securing State-legislative recognition of music (which, it is safe to say, with the coöperation of the national commissioners, probably not a single State would refuse) will at once be apparent. This interest, once secured, could easily be perpetuated, to the permanent advantage of the art.

The national chorus once formed, great festivals of the same character could be arranged for triennially or decennially; and thus incalculable good may be secured through the present opportunity with comparatively little trouble—almost “without money and without price.”

To every earnest musician and music-lover the plan pleads its own cause. It remains to be seen if, with the assistance of the World's Fair commissioners and directory, we shall have the opportunity to create an epoch in music that will shed the lustre of its glory throughout succeeding generations.

S. G. PRATT.

S. G. PRATT, *Esq.*

DEAR SIR : I fully indorse the above plan, and think it might be productive of great good to the cause of music in our country.

That a large proportion of the scheme is practical I feel certain; and that excellent results and impressive performances could be obtained with such a mass-chorus properly drilled I am convinced, *provided suitable music is selected.*

The appropriateness of inaugurating this work for the Columbian celebration is undoubtedly, if for no other reason than the general interest which it would awaken in polyphonic music over the whole country; and I hope that the endeavor will be made.

Yours truly,

THEODORE THOMAS.

A CATHOLIC ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

THE ordinary non-Catholic, when he considers the relation of the Catholic Church to the problem of general education, finds himself face to face with an imaginary solid phalanx marching forward to sweep the American public-school system off the face of the land. As he has been taught that the American school system—by which he means, of course, the system of common education in vogue in parts of the United States—is a glorious thing, and in some way responsible for the prosperity of this country, he resents this imaginary attempt to reduce the people to that condition of barbarism which existed before children were fed in equal doses from the big public-school spoon. In searching literature for an illustration of this process of education, one finds it in dear Mrs. Squeers's impartial distribution of sulphur and molasses to her husband's pupils at Dotheboys' Hall.